

THE ATHENS POST.

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

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TERMS:

THE POST IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY, AT TWO DOLLARS A YEAR, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

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The Post.

Athens, Friday, December 6, 1867.

The Constitution is not Dead.

It is not dead—it only sleepeth to wake up and assert its power, which it undoubtedly ere long will do at the call of the only sovereign now recognized in the American Republic—the people.

"The President issued," says the *Intelligencer* at Washington, "a proclamation in September calling upon the people of the Republic to uphold, cherish, and obey the Constitution. The people respond to the President with the deafening roar of a million shouts for order, law, and constitutional Union. The Constitution is not dead. It lives—it breathes. The blood of its everlasting life shoots through its veins and fires every fibre of the great national organism. Ye who thought it an old garment, tattered, dishonored, cast away, behold it a being of might and majesty, before which the proudest may kneel with dignity, and the maddest must shrink with awe from assailing."

Sensible Suggestion.

A short time ago, the Shelbyville *Republican*, a radical paper, came out in advocacy of the enfranchisement of the whites of this State. Later, the *Watchman*, another radical sheet, published at Murfreesboro', took up the suggestion, as follows:

"Sooner or later the suffrage will be extended to those who are now prohibited from enjoying that privilege. It is impracticable as well as unwise to engraft into our laws a prohibition that will forever exclude a large class of our citizens. * * * Now that the once oppressed class are enjoying the franchise, we think it would be but the part of wisdom for our Legislature to propose an amendment to our State Constitution looking to the enfranchisement of ex-rebels—say, first to all those below the rank of a commissioned officer, or it might be with safety extended farther—say all below the rank of Colonel in the army or Captain in the navy."

We hail the above suggestions coming from the source they do, though they may not amount to much at present, as evidences of a returning sense of soberness and justice, and as giving promise of a season of harmony and repose, imperatively demanded by the great interests of the country, social, civil and material.

Congress—Standing Committees.

The following are the more important of the Standing Committees in the House of Representatives of the Fortieth Congress:

On Elections—Messrs. Davies, Scofield, Upton, Shillibarger, McClary, Cook, Palmd, Chandler and Kerr.

Ways and Means—Messrs. Schenck and Morehead.

Appropriations—Messrs. Stevens, E. B. Washburn, Spaulding, Blair, Bean, Butler, Kelsey, Phillips and Nicholson.

Judiciary—Wilson, of Iowa, Boutwell, Thos. Williams, of Pa., Woodbridge, Lawrence, Churchill, Marshall, Eldridge.

Foreign Affairs—Messrs. Banks, Orth, Cullum, Washburn, of Wisconsin, McCarthy, Blair, Myers, Robinson of New York, and Morgan.

Trial of Jeff Davis.

The trial of Mr. Davis has been fixed for the 20th of March.

An application was made by Mr. O'Connor that the bond of Mr. Davis be extended until the time fixed for the trial to proceed, which was agreed to by Mr. Underwood, and it was further agreed that if Chief Justice Chase could not be present to preside over the court that leave of absence be extended to Mr. Davis to the term following.

The order for the extension of leave of absence to Mr. Davis, and fixing the 20th of March next as the day for his trial, was entered by order of Judge Underwood. Mr. Davis did not appear in court.

Mrs. LINCOLN.—The Chicago *Times* says: In order to realize a substantial fund for the support of Mrs. Lincoln, we propose that those office holders who owe their position to her influence donate one per cent. of their stealings, the amount would place her above all want.

The excitement about impeachment has pretty well subsided.

President Johnson.

The Nashville *Union and Dispatch*, noticing some illiberal and gratuitous strictures upon President Johnson, by parties who would be more appropriately employed in strengthening him and holding up his hands, says:

Mr. Johnson may not be the candidate of the Democratic party for the Presidency, and we do not know that he desires to be, nor personally do we care; but if he has any such ambition, that political calculation for the next twelve months which does not reckon him as a positive quantity, may wofully miscarry; and some people who esteem themselves very wise in such matters, and of great authority as law-givers in the Democratic temple, may find themselves mistaken. We do not champion all his acts of omission and commission for the past six years, nor step forward as his special defender; but we do regard him as entitled to the grateful esteem of every true Democrat, and hold that he should be exempt from the filthiest slanders of those who should appreciate his noble services in behalf of constitutional liberty; and, that in the arduous task now before him, he should be able to lean with confidence on the great Democratic party for all the moral support it can afford.

Out of Debt, Out of Danger.

A young farmer writes to the New York *Journal of Commerce*, "to see if it could not help him to borrow money on his land. The editor does not 'see it.' He says:

We would not help a young farmer to a loan upon his land if we could.—There is no incubus upon human energies like a debt. It is oppressive enough when it comes upon a man of business as a temporary engagement representing a crop to be gathered, or a lot of produce or merchandise in transit, to be sold to meet it at maturity. But as a permanent burden upon a farm of manufactory, or a stock of goods, it is worse than a nightmare. "Keep out of Debt" is a golden rule, the observance of which would have saved life and fortune to millions of the race who have succumbed to the crushing pressure. If a man has a farm of three hundred acres and needs capital to work it, let him sell half or two-thirds of it, and use the money thus obtained to develop the remainder. Any man of sense can make more money upon 150 acres clear of debt than upon 300 acres when he owes for half of it. If he has but 150 acres to begin with, let him sell 100 acres and work upon 50, rather than to run in debt. We return our answer to every young man who asks us how to borrow money upon his estate—"Don't!" Live on potatoes, make your garments of figs, and sleep under a hay in the barn, if necessary, but *do not* borrow money! No more pernicious institution could be organized than one that should loan ten million dollars to country farmers. It would be the ruin of seven-eighths of them."

The Hog Crop.

Our Western exchanges note the fact that the Pork market opened with more than usual vigor—the number disposed of in one day named being 41,000. There is a good deal of speculation as to the probable length of the season, some of the packers figuring that it will extend to the 1st of January. The Chicago *Times* says:

"We are inclined to think that the latter will prove correct. The corn crop turned out much better than was expected, and the increase in the number of hogs throughout the West, some points excepted, will be found to be larger than many anticipate. On the Ohio it is thought that there will be a falling off in the packing; but during the past few days there has been a marked increase in the receipt of hogs at both Cincinnati and Louisville, and the indications are that the decrease will be slight. The country west of the Mississippi is full of young hogs, and though the farmers along the line of railroads will market their corn rather than feed it to the swine, those who are not accessible to market will be compelled to realize by feeding, as the hogs can be marketed to better advantage than the corn. A good many hogs are now arriving from Iowa, and the quality shows some improvement as compared with those received a week or ten days ago. The market for the product is generally quite dull, and there are no evidences of strength anywhere. The exporters would buy English meats at lower figures than the packers are willing to take. No Southern demand has yet sprung up for side meats, and there is no inquiry for mork pork, except for small lots for the lumbering country. Some speculative transactions have been made, but within the last two or three days comparatively little business has been done. In a word, the market is weak, and every thing points to a lower range of prices."

The Executions at Manchester.

The opinion is expressed by leading American journals, that the recent executions of the Fenians at Manchester, England, who claimed to be American citizens, may lead to serious complications between the British and American governments. The New York *Herald* expresses the conviction that—

"The death of these men will create a profound sensation throughout the civilized world. While the reckless and hopeless attempts of the Fenians to excite a rebellion against the British government are to be deplored as only tending to destroy human life and to increase the suffering of the oppressed Irish people, England will meet with little sympathy from other nations in her domestic troubles. * * * Whether the triple execution will lay the terrible Fenian ghost in England and Ireland remains to be seen. It may check any more outbreaks for awhile, but it is not at all probable that it may rattle in the minds of the masses, and in the end bring forth even more bitter fruit than the tree of Fenianism has yet produced."

Articles of Impeachment.

Below will be found the articles of Impeachment presented by the majority of the Judiciary Committee:

"In accordance with the testimony herewith submitted, and the view of the law herein presented, the committee are of opinion that Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors requiring the interposition of the constitutional powers of this House:

"In that upon the final surrender of the rebel armies, and the overthrow of the rebel Government, the said Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, neglected to convene the Congress of the United States; that by its aid and authority legal and constitutional measures might have been adopted for the organization of loyal and constitutional governments in the States then recently in rebellion; in that, in his proclamation to the people of North Carolina of the 20th day of May, 1865, he assumed that he had authority to decide whether the government of North Carolina, and whether any government that might be set up therein, was republican in form, and that in his office of President it was his duty, and within his power to guarantee to said people a republican form of government, contrary to the Constitution, which provides that the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government; contrary also to a deliberate opinion of the Supreme Court, which declares that Congress is vested exclusively with the power to decide whether the government of a State is republican or not; in that he did therefore recognize and treat a plan of government set up in North Carolina, under and in conformity to his own advice and direction, as republican in form, and entirely restored to its functions as a State, notwithstanding Congress is the branch of the government in which, by the Constitution, such power is exclusively vested, and notwithstanding that Congress did refuse to recognize such government as a legitimate government, or as a government republican in form; in that, by a public proclamation and otherwise, he did, in the year 1865, invite, solicit and convene in certain other States, then in recent rebellion, conventions of persons, most of whom were known traitors, who had been organized in an attempt to overthrow the government of the United States, and urged and directed such conventions to frame constitutions for such States; in that he has not only restored to claimants thereof large amounts of cotton and other abandoned property that had been seized and taken by the agents of the Treasury, in conformity to law, but has paid and directed the payment of the actual proceeds of sales made thereof, and this in violation of all laws of the United States, which order and require payment into the Treasury of the United States of all moneys received from such sales, and provide for loyal claimants a sufficient and easy remedy in the Court of Claims; and in manifest violation, also, of the spirit and meaning of the Constitution, wherein it is declared that no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriation made by law."

"And further, in that the said Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, authorized the use of the army of the United States for the dispersion of a peaceful and lawful assembly of citizens of Louisiana, and this by virtue of a dispatch addressed to a person who was not an officer of the army, but who was a public and notorious traitor, and all with the intent to deprive the loyal people of Louisiana of every opportunity to frame a State government republican in form, and with the intent, further, to continue in places of trust and emolument persons who had engaged in an attempt to overthrow the government of the United States, expecting thus to conciliate such persons to himself, and secure their aid in support of his aforesaid unconstitutional designs; all of which omissions of duty, usurpations of power, violations of his oath of office, of the laws and of the Constitution of the United States, by the said Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, have retarded the public prosperity, lessened the public revenues, disordered the business and finances of the country, encouraged insubordination in the people of the States recently in rebellion, fostering sentiments of hostility between different classes of citizens, revived and kept alive the spirit of the rebellion, humiliated the nation, dishonored republican institutions, obstructed the restoration of said States to the Union, and delayed and postponed the peaceful and fraternal reorganization of the government of the United States."

Geo. S. BOUTWELL, FRANCIS THOMAS, THOMAS WILLIAMS, WM. LAWRENCE, JOHN C. CHURCHILL.

ON TRIAL.—A dispatch from St. Louis says:

"After several days effort a jury has been empaneled in the case of Dr. W. P. Headington, who is charged with killing a barber-keeper at the Galt House, named Wallenspiel, last December. Headington is a Kentuckian and was a surgeon in the rebel army, and has rich friends."

Dr. Headington, who is better known about Nashville by the name of "Foot Wetmore," is a native and old resident of that city. He is a step-son of M. W. Wetmore of the place.

SEVEN THIRTIES.—It is understood to be the decision of the Treasury Department, that unless holders of 7-30s shall present them for conversion into 5-20 bonds at maturity, the option to make such conversion is lost, and the 7-30s will afterwards be liquidated in greenbacks.

Democratic Meeting—Resolutions.

The following resolutions were passed at a large and enthusiastic democratic meeting held in Nashville on the 9th ultimo:

Resolved, That we have beheld with the highest satisfaction the results of the recent important elections in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and several other States, and recognize them as affording evidence of a marked and salutary change in the public sentiment of the country, as giving promise of a speedy and general return to those wise and equitable administrative principles which so honorably marked the first half century of our history as a free and united people, and as justifying the inspiring hope of the ultimate re-establishment, upon a firm and enduring basis, of those relations of reciprocal amity and confidence between all sections of our Republic, and among all classes of our people, which various potential causes have, in these latter days of suffering and misfortune, so deeply and disturbingly disturbed and suspended—without complete and early restoration of which relations, it is painfully manifest that we shall never be able to attain that greatness and power for which our sage and patriotic fathers so devoutly prayed, and the splendid realization of which they so confidently anticipated.

Resolved, That in view of surrounding circumstances, and in consideration of the manifold dangers and difficulties which now environ us, we regard it as eminently expedient that the Democratic party, as it existed among us in the purer and better days of the Republic, before certain noxious issues, now forever settled, had crept in to distract its councils and enfeeble its influence, should be at once re-organized, so that we may be hereafter in full accord with the members of that party existing elsewhere, and, with a view to this end, the President of this meeting is hereby empowered to appoint forthwith a Central Committee of twenty-five members, whose duty it shall be to take charge of this important matter, and, by such means as said committee shall deem advisable, to effect the earliest possible re-organization of said party in every county of the State of Tennessee.

Resolved, That, in this striving at a conjuncture so delicate and trying, to secure something like a convenient and effective co-operative action among such of our fellow-citizens in Tennessee as chance to concur in approving the well known principles which distinguish the creed of the Democratic party, in its national character, it is not at all either our intention or wish to do anything which might have a tendency to keep alive existing irritations, to awaken unpleasant reminiscences of the past, or to confirm unfortunate prejudices, growing out of conflicts which have terminated,—but that, on the contrary, we are animated by a patriotic ambition to contribute to the full extent of our power, in every available and becoming mode, to assuage all unkind feeling yet remaining in our midst, as far as practicable; to harmonize divergent opinions; to remove misunderstandings dangerous to the public repose, and to prevail upon our fellow-countrymen of Tennessee, everywhere, in a spirit of true Christian charity, to forgive all past wrongs and grievances mutually inflicted in a season of excitement and tempestuous passion, the moving causes of which have no longer any substantial existence, in order that for the sake of their own and their country's happiness and true honor, they may be, henceforward, *one people, in opinion, in sentiment, and in interest.*

In connection with the above patriotic resolutions it is proper to remark that the term "Democrat," as now used in party politics, conveys a very different idea from what it did formerly. It now embraces all who are opposed to the Radical or so-called Republicanism—regardless of former party alignments, and is composed of Democrats, Whigs, Conservatives, Natives, Know Nothings, and moderate Republicans who have become disgusted with the *Radicalism* of their leaders. In New York it numbers among its leaders such men as Millard Fillmore, and James and Erastus Brooks; and in Massachusetts the Winthrops, Adamses, &c. So in other sections where the party has an organization.

Tennessee Railroads—State Aid.

The Omnibus Bill, which passed the State Senate on its first reading a few days ago, makes the following appropriations:

The Nashville and Northwestern railroad, \$500,000; Knoxville and Kentucky, \$800,000; Cincinnati, Cumberland Gap and Charleston, \$200,000; Winchester and Alabama, \$200,000; Nashville and Decatur, \$350,000; Southwestern, \$300,000; Memphis and Charleston, \$300,000; Mississippi Central, \$200,000; Mississippi and Tennessee, \$100,000; Knoxville and Charleston, \$150,000; Tennessee and Pacific, \$5,000 per mile; East Tennessee and North Carolina, \$100,000; Edgefield and Kentucky, \$300,000; East Tennessee and Virginia, \$500,000; making an aggregate of \$3,700,000, exclusive of the appropriation of \$5,000 per mile to the Tennessee and Pacific.

It is proper to remark that the Governor has sent a special message to the Legislature, in which he favors State aid as essential, not only to relieve the Roads from their embarrassments, but to secure, and make safe, beyond future contingency, the large interest the Commonwealth already has embarked in these enterprises in endorsing their Bonds.

A NOVEL BET.—A young fellow in Berlin made a bet the other day that he would kiss twenty-five women on the public promenade in the Thiergarten. He succeeded in kissing three, getting his ears slapped by one of them, and being arrested by a constable.

General Summary.

In the Louisiana Convention, the officers stand President, white; Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms and Door keeper, colored.

The condemned Fenians, Allen, Larkin and Gould, suffered the extreme penalty of the law at Manchester, England, on the 23d ult.

In St. Louis, 16,656 persons have petitioned the city government for the repeal of the existing Sunday laws. Petitions less numerous signed, however, have been presented, deprecating any such change.

Senator Reverdy Johnson has prepared an argument, to show that the President cannot be suspended from office pending a trial of impeachment, and that he cannot be convicted only on the charge of treason and bribery.

B. E. Queen, one of Chicago's leading real estate and stock brokers, has been sued for divorce by his wife, who alleges adultery with her own mother.

Hon. Wm. G. Swan, formerly of Knoxville, was in that city last week.

A man in Hartford, sat on a red hot stove to spite his wife. He stuck there, and she left him.

Rhode Island is the most densely populated State in the Union.

Henry Ward Beecher received \$25,000 from Mr. Bonner for "Norwood," and as the story was longer than was anticipated, an additional five thousand has been paid.

A couple of female practical jokers frightened a young married woman into insanity, at Milwaukee, the other day, by telling her that her husband was dead.

California is going extensively into the culture of castor beans. The yield on an average is worth more than \$150 to the acre.

The Fayetteville *News* says there never was half as much stealing as is now going on in Lincoln county. It hears daily on all sides of stealing horses, mules, hogs, bacon, corn and many other things of less importance. We suspect the evil is not confined exclusively to "Old Linkhorn."

The Democratic Club of Lexington, Ky., have unanimously declared Hon. George H. Pendleton to be their choice for the Presidency in the ensuing campaign.

It is reported that an election riot took place on Sunday night at Rockville, on Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina, and a number of whites and blacks are said to be killed. No authority for the information has been received, but a detachment of troops was sent to the island the following morning.

It is said that Chief Justice Chase is opposed to Jeff Davis being tried before Judge Underwood or by a negro jury.

Arizona says that the life of a mail carrier on her lonely plains is as safe as that of a color bearer in a first-class battle; but Arizona wants more troops.

A bill has been introduced in Congress providing for the annexation of Mexico to the United States.

The Louisville *Courier* says: "If the Democratic Convention should deem it essential to the triumph of Democratic principles to nominate General Sherman, we will not hesitate to support him, notwithstanding his St. Louis speech."

A number of parties were arrested in Chicago, on the 23d inst., for an attempt to flood the city with counterfeit notes on the Union National Bank of Kinderhook.

The engineer appointed to fix a point on the Union Pacific railroad, which should be considered the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains to the West, of which the government has agreed to give forty-eight thousand dollars per mile to aid in the construction of the road, has reported. He fixes it on the Black Hills Ridge, five hundred and twenty-five miles west of Omaha. The crest of said hills is 8342 feet above the level of the sea.

The New Albany *Ledger* says that the Bank of Selma, one of the free banks of Indiana, has redeemed two thousand dollars more of its notes than it ever issued. It is likely that this excess was created by some one stealing and circulating a package of the notes after they had been placed in the Auditor of State's office for redemption. The Southern Bank of Terre Haute has also redeemed several thousand dollars more of its bills than it ever issued.

The town of Winchester, in Litchfield county, Connecticut, puts the pauper whites of the town up at auction, once a year, to the man who will feed and keep them at the lowest price; and the way they are "kept," it is said, would breed a revolution on a Southern plantation in twenty-four hours.

Business in Berlin and the other large cities of Germany is very dull. The German manufacturers refuse to sell their customers in France on any other terms than cash with the order.

The Southwest.

A recent Memphis date draws the following gloomy picture of affairs in the Southwest:

The condition of commercial affairs is very unsatisfactory, and the future gloomy both for merchants and planters. The cotton crop in Mississippi has all been gathered, the negroes are being discharged, and in a week or two, will swarm the entire country, idle and troublesome. Planters are unable to pay their debts, much less to keep their hands during the winter months, and it is estimated that not more than one in ten will be in condition to make a crop next year.

Merchants from New Orleans and Memphis are seizing the cotton on the plantations to secure themselves from loss.

It is said that one county in Mississippi which produced 80,000 bales of cotton in 1860, and 22,000 bales last year, will have a yield this year of not more than 15,000 bales.

Accounts similarly distressing come from other portions of what was once the heavier cotton-growing regions. The prospect for the people in that direction is gloomy indeed.

BASE BALL.—We have to record still another death from base ball folly. In Allen's Prairie, Michigan, there is a ladies' base ball club. One day last week they played a game. Miss Howard was made ill by over-exercision, and died in three days thereafter.

Trouble in Mississippi.

The following comes through the Memphis *Avantache* of the 24th ultimo, which we transfer to our columns with the remark, that the main fault is not with the deluded blacks, but should be charged, where it properly belongs, to the unscrupulous and reckless creatures who, to promote their own vile and wicked ends, are leading, or pushing, their victims into trouble:

"For some time a great deal of dissatisfaction has existed among the freedmen in the neighborhood of Columbus, Mississippi. They had quit work, and would not pluck a boll, the reason given for such action being that their share of the crop would not pay their expenses for the year, owing to the tax on the staple, and the low price to which it had fallen. As soon as they refused to work, a matter of course they had to leave the plantations, and give up their houses to those who would work. They then took to the woods, and commenced a system of indiscriminate pilfering and stock killing. About two hundred of them have been assembled in the neighborhood of Columbus, Mississippi, since the beginning of the election, and had become a perfect nuisance and terror to the neighborhood. At the request of the citizens a company of United States troops had been stationed at Columbus, for the protection of the lives and property of the people. When this band of vagabondized negroes had exhausted the country of everything which was stealable, they determined to make a raid upon the town, in full force. They were all armed, and procuring a life and drum, they marched into the town, demanding bread. Not one of them asked for work; they did not want that. Bread was all the cry, and they were about commencing an indiscriminate robbery when the United States troops appeared on the ground and disarmed them first, and then dispersed them. The ringleaders were taken into custody. What a scene of bloodshed and robbery we would have had to relate, had it not been for the fortunate presence of the troops, we shudder to think of. This is the first attempt at a broad riot which has ever occurred in the South, but how long it will be until they become common it takes no far-seeing prophet to tell."

The Memphis paper adds, that the negroes all through the country are becoming thoroughly demoralized under the teaching of Radicals, who counsel and incite them at every fence corner, to their own destruction, and apprehends scenes of violence and bloodshed at no distant day unless prompt and energetic measures are adopted to arrest the mischief makers in their wicked and devilish work.

Advice to Newspapers.

A cotemporary gives the following sensible advice to the newspaper press:

If your paper is full of advertisements, use smaller type and do not be too liberal in the use of leads.

If advertisements, still encroach, increase the price, but don't enlarge unless actually compelled to do so. The best papers in the country are small; a neat paper with but few advertisements can always command good figures, and \$100 for one column is much better than the same amount for three.

Advertisers judge of a paper 1st, by its looks; 2d, by the price asked,—those papers which adhere closest to rates, invariably get the most business,—ask a fair price and get it or lose the work, but don't ask one man any more than another.

Railway Liability.

The question whether a railroad company which has printed on its tickets that it is not responsible for more than one hundred dollars' worth of baggage, can be made to indemnify a traveler for a lost trunk, has again been settled against a railroad company in Brooklyn.

The Judge held that in the hurry of travel, a party was "not to be held responsible for perusing all the reading matter that might be stuck at him through the window on the back of his ticket."

PRETTY.—Very pretty is the following idea taken from the local column of the *Picayune*. "The light of love is very beautiful amid scenes of sorrow, and as the moonbeams seem holier and more tender round a ruin or churchyard than in festive halls, so is affection brighter when bestowed upon the wretched than when attracted by youth and happiness."

POSTAGE STAMPS.—Postage stamps are a comparatively recent invention, but they have gone into universal use in most enormous quantities. England uses \$50,000,000 postage stamps annually; France, 450,000,000, and the United States, 350,000,000.

TAX COLLECTORS.—The salaries of tax collectors connected with the interest on United States bonds amounts to more now than all the expenses of the government under General Jackson's administration.

THE COTTON TAX.—Information from Washington leads to the belief that the cotton tax will be repealed during the present session of Congress, though it will meet with strenuous opposition.